THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

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Bearkel'l. unto tl;t I>attle or mun can;, Laoe. The ltor7 or that baLtit hu oe;er been printcl octore. It li 16toored bJ all hiltcorl• of tha war. Untlt lat. Jean li, •u not a tubject of trank and o(;en discuqlon, bJ the all tbJog,. TIere are ctlll IIYIOE I number of meo who p;r-lclpa-d ln that tlglit, and I lla.e talked wltb men on botb eldu rf(ently aod after co loo; a time thll hlatotlc e;eo, which had been to nebulouil came ... ... de,vor to attle a ... ...

At the W111i Union school house at the root of the mountain, on the ro&d that kM.11 to the WUlams]tiver country, lo 1864, lltedlleor.l Duncan, lo a double log house oo u-. hu.ttwatera or Stoow Creek. Tile tlOlAe- wu op-posite the mouth of a drlw or hollow leading off at right angles toward the ...uth, and up that bollow JIved WIlt•lm lieyerage about a i;uarter of a m le dl1t.lnt. A PISSwp,y was used u)) that horrow to reanb the Ortlln place. ,od the homes Of people ,lvlng oo Days Mouot,lo. ,od on over to the headwaters of Dry Run, a branoll Of Swa-Ill OrMk. Part Of the pa88way between the Duncau place and the Uevenage place was fenced on both sides lo 1864 u a lane. It wu tills lane tbat gave the g.ame to the battle.

The State wuu formed lo 1861 3, aod to the early part of 1864 a regiment of state guards was formed at Huckhannon, and of this regiment Poeshontlll county ftrnlshed one compsny, captained at times, b~ ~ptain Sam Young, a mlnlner, and later by Captain I. W. Alien. Cap-alo. Young preached It the sulphur fprlng on Stoy Creek, (Ellis Sharp'i) on May 1, 1863, and made ao appointment to preach there again lo forty years ,rtter. A Areat concourse of people gaitlered there 10 1864 to keep lae appointment, but the captain was dead. Eleven survivors appeared at the meetilog.

This regiment had Its headquarters lo ikip at Ie:leverly. Tbese state guards were gallant soldiers and were exposea to lll. tlte perilll ana privations or the civil war. *It* Is not t,oo Uluch te say that they performed servlce attended by unusual dlngers and Hiardl,, and It is a matter *of* general rejrtet that they were not reoo;inlred and rewarde:l by the Jl'ceral governmea-ll ltwr: tlll wu, however honore guards In unlovaded states were placed those In West Virl;lnla were real soldiers.

In 1tsH, the Union depended upon the result or the presldeut,lal election. u a peace party had set out to de- ... this had succeeded the erring sisters would have been allowed to go in peace, and the I nlted State:l would tave dlslntel(r&ted.

The dauntless Averell, and bls mounted Infantry, like a tholn in tbe tlnell ... federates, llad conquered and subdued West Vlrlclnla for the Union. Ile was lgoomlnously dlscharced In September HUH. The county of Poonhootas lo the tall or 1-1H was controlled by the Confedera.y. It was ... Vlrjt1nll. author ltes to hold 10 election for President lo this county, and arraogements were made to open the polls at Edray. Aod the Pocahontass county state guards company was detailed to bring that electtnn off. They marched on root from tieverly to Edray, a dlstanca or litty four miles, ~ming In by the way or "Elk River, and arriving a day or two berore electlon. It was recognized tllat It was a dangerous expedition. seodlog one company loto Pocahontas county.

The company camped oear the headwaters of Ebl on thp way lo, and one of the soldiers, \Vashlngtoo "Nell, obtaJned leave or absence to visit lita wife who was stopping at William Gibson's. Bere he was cXPtured by a scnad belonolnu to Cnntalo J. C. Oat's company *of* Cootederate scouts, aod wu taken as a prisoner to the beadquartera *of* that company, at the farm or Samuel Gay Just above the mouth o Stony Creak. That oljbt lo attempt.log to escape, Nel? was shot and killed. The prisoner had laid outr JJrhi&ttL.lie>nett wltb a atone and had been shot as he Hed near the ford lo Stony Creek.

This word had reached the company at Edray. Captalo Sam. Youog was lo command. Capt. I. W. Allen wu there too. Nearly evfl'y member of the company was , Poo,llontaa mao. Already apprehensive or the dlO)ler of belog In the heart of I Coo federate country. the death or Nea must have lmpressed them with tl.e dangers or their position. Tbe polla were onened under the oaks standine In front or the William Sharp house: nea, tbe big spring. The soldiers all voted Irrespective or age and a number of citizens or tbe vicinity, and the vote wu solid for Abraham LIncoln for president.

Aaron Moore was chosen u the messenger to take the vote Into the nor-lwestero ,.pAft of the State, where the existence of the oo erm-

ll, northern toldlers. Upoo a count cll of I. It wu decided ... mt mounrlb ana aatt a ... th- dhtctloo or Wlllllmtl Bher lo aueh ... the ca,lir1 coulJ not rollo• Ujem. Tbl7 r•llud that tl.-, wert I amlU 00llpa.il or meo in a cooutrl Ibtl •aa bol"Ult to hem. and Ulat thel mlgrht bt killed bJ an amuu1ll.a ... *and* 1.Hmun.

It turned oat atterwartla tbu tbt 10dller all Lht brldgt wu not a Ilotl ... wu a d... rt,r who wu ~air-log hll ,etaway ~ UoeksbDDorl, where tUtJ uw 'him • ;bor\ time arter.

Ruo and trom there cllmbed Uoek• Mountalo tlroop the rrr... Lo,la ua,ll tbel reaches the frolice of tre4ll oear Ule top, and there thet took eome cold food from their haveraects and laJ down llo aleeo without any ...

... before daylight, and marched to the hearl of Dry Run amt called •'-the hooe, or Peter Beerall•, a Uoloo m,o, and there fo-10methlog to eat, and then proceeded bJ the way or the Ortlll Place to William Be,tlRe'l olace. Willaws Beverage waa • Uiotber *of* I'eter IJeverJge, but wu -. Cootederate. In sympathy, uuli wu a non colllbltaot,

Here there were bees, aod the little army feellDJl safe from possible pucauit: commandeered a bte gum or blae full of honey. It was thl tiret week of November and the hlve wos heavy with honey. The soldlers made the farmer tlfve them buckets and they proceeded to 6ll the buckets with honey, preparing for, 1 mid day teed.

In the meantime, the Confederates hao been lay log plans to capture the Oolon soldiers sent here lo such a ,mall force to beera the lan ln his den. Captain J. C Gly, hold log a commlssion as 0lpbaln under the Cooteracy, with authority to l(U&rd thll border wu the ranldcg 0ll'ce r lo this emergency, he augmented his torce by ,ummoutlngto his beldi;ulrter, at Ills home ,ts tite mouth or Stony Creel', all southern soldiers who were at home oo furloughs, and his commaod was mide up of about half scouts and hair soldiers on furlough.

Godfrey Delrrer says ulal ne and his brother Adam Gelger were called from their bome at Stony Bottom and tltat they reached headquarters at the Gay rarm about dark on the d•• or the election.

The company was mt.de up there, and moved oerere aayllgns lillo rrlo morning, and took the trail of the Union soldiers on Bucles Mountain snd found wbere they had blvouaced In the edlte or the woods. They then went to William Kinnlsoola the mountain to get some bTead but be fore any could be prtsparnu Huv lle•• ll the northern soldlers platoon ferlnl, at Peter Beverage's near by, and they did not wait for anything to eat.

They hung on the trail slowly wblch led through the woods for The most part, until they came to the ... erage's, and tnere they saw the Union soldlers lo the act or takrf, the honey from a bee hive. The dlatam a wu abou~ three hundred yards. The order to 6re being gtven, a lloiley was let Off, the result of which was a ... for shelter. Sowe went to the hrlll-sides on either side of the hollow. Some went down Duncan's Lane, and sheltered lo and behind Duncan's house, and some to the knoll commanding the mouth or the hollow ... stands and lm this way gave baUle aoo returned the tlrlo;r.

Aaron Moore with the election. returns ran up the hllside, and Godfrey Gelger says that, he would most certainly been killed *It* lt had not been that he was In citizen clothes the rule belog to shoot no one not lu a uniform.

At or about the first fire, Bernard Sharp, or the Union army, a soo or Willlam Sharp, or Elk, and t brother or Sllu,, Harm!n, and nugh Sharp, fell mortally wounded. Ile was shot through b!th blps. Godfrey Gelger saya that he was carrytna an army gun called a musketoon, which took a paper cartridge. That he went Into tbe fight ,,lth three chargea and that he would have been out or the battle but for the fact that he oot a supply or cartridges (rom the battlefield after the first volley the Untan ammunltlon .lua sultlolr his gun. Godfrey Gellrer saya that his was a long range gun, and that he saw Captain Young In the passage way between the two part, or the Duncan house and that be shot at him. 'Tbatl l;&ptalo Young told him afterwafstlf that the ball cut away bis clothes across his chest The bullet wu recovered after the war rrom the lOll ,-bere It had lodged.

The two Uttle armlea having taken ehölter coniloueo eo are a eaou u-uer for something like ao hour and a hair, and nallber aide maclog a charge, the Union coldlers gradually withdrew and made their way by tittle squads to the orhd-aal rendezvous at Uevely tattlnll ...

When It became appareo.t that the Union army had retired from tbe place, tbe Confederates went on down the lane, and came on Hero.rd Sharp, and oarrled him to neny Duncan's house. It W... appareoli ... sent for a doctor and did what they could for blm, but he expired lo a

John Arimtrong Muffett Waltoo John I. Adc.lson, "Illlm Kinlllllon ... wouodt. Jtoltctu Blarp, ahol lu the mouth.

J. R. Moore, who was under lire from the trst, alJH that no one "'15 hit " the first Ilte tbat- ll the lirlnl tha, Oscirted whtle tlc Union sol- ... lunsh lo Willlam ... Jtrd I thlalc Uhlt ll correct. I tlitlk Ileru ard Sharp wu litt In the lilpe with a mountalo rtite ball Uhe lle llt.ood bebind a tree, ret.uinlnc lhe fira Of the Confedera-u Ile was • line, Lall ... lleath •ttl greatly repreteted.

The wounded soldiers were takeo to t.cave near James McJ'lure's, under the abado• of IleJ Koob, and Cooceaied, and thel were treated wllb great klodnesa and colll'lderation bJ ... There wu no one hit on the Ooo tederat• aide. The Coniederaws turned back at Ueor;, Duncan'l and they took from his farm • uee lf'lm and baea ll!l-h Ihey carried lo William. Heveraltje to replace tht one chat he had lm to ~he tinlon &rlly... There seems ¥ b&Ut been no cause for th.s ~ther than Duncan was for the Un-100 •nd Ileverage was for the Confeder&Cf.

I have talked wltu Re.riste~ Moore and Peter Mo&arty, sol~llers of the Union, on one aide, and *Godfrey* Gelger, soldier on the tunfedecate side. Gotlf.rey Gtlt,rer was In some of Lue biggest llgiltnl *et* the war. Georl.e McOollaoo was elaht years old and Ito hu a vivid recollection ot Lhe soldiere returnlnl(from the battletleld. shoutting and vlctur'ous. He ~as ~t Lila Aunt Itlltll Kees on Hucl Mountcln: Ge~rire M. Kee, n wounded Conrederale soldier beloj at home. It is prolt.Ully impossible for complete llswi of The soldlera to be obtamed at this late day and timo, and the names ti, re Illven are thus futrn-lal lea oy s.tn ravers of •lle ma'air.

Union soll.lers: Captalo Samuel Youtll: Ulptsln I. W. Allttn Lleuc Wm Kinnison Gorporal Julin Arm stroul{; William Hmnah Vlllatn Gay George Cochran, t'ark *JJll)-Y* nf Jl-wlll1rs Hanlerv,, Jl.rellly Ul ley, Sllti dow Bamoo&, Dave Nelhume Jl.wnrs vutllem veterans.

Wauless, M.Ulll.Lt Wu'le5lf. Jamei. L Rod-era, Aaron Jl.tm'll, J. B.. Mo,re, Ilenry Pu&lt. Willlall Simmons, Jolin ~ tlldltsolt, t'Pter t.kCarty, Je.mes Uhler, Aarnn Hee, Uoinmbns Slb&, Ilehry Shllla, George Ml'Keeve ... Illl1d Molll,t.t Sharp.

Confeclerate soldlerg Captaln J. C. Glly, J.ames Shanum, Jl.tu& Simmons Mlchall. Willertln (.one armed soldlerl. Godfrey Geher, Adam Gelger. A.t.tl While, Bax White, Charles L. ... Ia1ll1jhlr, ... Utlll.fe li. McL,.lPhllo. (.hlrle- J.,sklnn. ,hosh Ilelerajc of Olver Creek. Harvey Lilttlsey, Geo Strmmans. Ilraro Dorman.

Them l'an ue nu ,questlon out that there aro mari)' names omltLed on ... would oe reportcel' ll detlll to ths war ullke or lllUlter t.tlatnd. And though I have known tlie most or the ,olllers mellUulell allUvu Il Ilmlittey, It was not a essa that was discussed freely lll lli e olden cia.s. E wast nly ... about lll le tal.L to lfe.tray Llat I tatl1ertid some uf thll saihmi. facil' In connecuon with lt, ltlld rortutltely I wal ah'le I.a tilk to soldters who had been In lt.

As a hll le lt dues uot rank hlch other ttlall It ltlld a dlred; ultarlng on the elecrlon or JJ1lcoll. tlte second time. *If* he hadl been defeated. It would hlVe been a lttlk rnell lo the Ilre,tness of America. Hut It was not lo the plao of Pro,idence for him to ratl.

As a put, or Lhe trnvall or WeRt Vlrl(lola, jll ;jer. E-lrth tlfroes such contests as tltesii, occurrtna in the border counties, aru or the I[reat.est lm portance.

I have never been tbie lo under- ... tand whJ \he bom,, ruarch or W... \Vlrtinla-ere, aos Pauillcftted and Fr... arm,, 'fo biloni 10 I. ltlt1l,lnard oompanJ In W-I. \vralola. aod prea ar.• the coll,, of thi lkl1.t and to aulet. In 1.1,1 mlltarJ mo;em,nt, within the borders of the atar~. ..... a ,en-lee ... tlie rreatetl perll and ... I ma heard that tbe troll!!! In the or tilt recorolttloo, wu the atand that tlr all powerrur Grand Army of the Uepl(lbllo, orpanlatloo took lo the ma,ter. And I ca&... ltow a home lfUard In New Jlaa,. ... t shot tired lo aolier, aod lllljrhi not hl'le the rlehl to tl much consider •lion as the ,oldJer who race, death at the call or hla eountrJ. Hut the Wut Vtrirtola. ltlte iruard carried Iiii lire In bit hand dorinit the four- ... and mlnl perltbed lo the discharge of their dul.lea.

Th• rorroatloo of the state lrl1rds saema to. ha,e rele!lld in a iereat measure the Army or W•t Vl)flola for ,ervice 0 the Valle,l or Virgima and beyond the Ilue. Rldlll. In April 1804, the state guards were orpu!ted and took cbar~e o! the da.nicr zone lb West Vlrtflol1. and In May, 1S64, lbe entire torce of the Army of Wesl Virginia, ta the ref(U-Jars stkllloned lo tile mcuntlo state were called. were oo the move to report to Gen. Bunter ,t Staunwo lu movement aglalnsb Lynchburg, Virginia, and from that to the end of the war at Appomtlw1. the Army of West Virginia, lollglit on the other sida of the mountain with the eleoptlon Of a detour on a retreat from Selem to Mtx-lnsburg by way of Lewisburg and Charleston, from June 20, JIlll, to July 18, lilH. The ~olley of West Vlrirtola, for the Ist year or the war was given over to the state guards, ind J. feel tliat they have not been ifleoo due cre,dlt, *tor* tlleir courage and lidelltyl anel elllol.ency. In peace they seem to llave been forlofttem, and their signal service Ilnored ... They ba ve not been treated as well as (J.mfederate soldiers, for most or tlll southern lltates. Itaye tlken very goorl l&rll of destlltte veterans.

Tüe home l(uard) movement should not be confused with the home guard Iloropinles iormad on either side at ~he beginulog or the war In the West. Vlrglola counties. These ununtromel patrlctic cttlsens senteo eue seo!lme,rit or lnelr respective sides, and ,lay cel Imporuln t pl,rls In the earlier stages or ~le contest, and they •li practical ly formed or entered regular companies In a very short time.

Tile West. VtcKlnll guards had all ... of ri-lllnry sw.ur u tie renders, wearln,r tile uniform or their country duly authorized, ty law to lay down, their lives for the Illlon. Unfortunately tluy Uecarq0 contused with the mord p&licaful or,l Inlz.ltlons or otiier states and suffered nellleeu ... are to-lt-ct to study the record. The.l will be convnced Itlab a very Important uody or Unten soldiers railed to receeHe due recojnltlon arLer peace w-s declared.

I am glad to be aule to preaent to ... Duncan's Lanz, as an example of what mlj;ht be expected as a pltrt, or the day's work from the West Virg1ll1l State Guards who fiutjht a lflod light, and lnlshed the course: and who failed to receive the extra com ...